



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

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For Immediate Release

WIPP Environmental Initiatives Earn DOE Recognition

CARLSBAD, N.M., October 29, 2012 – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently recognized four initiatives at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) and more than 20 people for improvements in energy, water and fleet efficiency while reducing pollution and waste across the DOE complex.

“We’re very pleased by the Department’s Sustainability Awards,” said Carlsbad Field Office, which has responsibility for WIPP and the National Transuranic (TRU) Program, Manager Joe Franco. “They recognize our commitment to innovation and using our resources wisely. I thank the teams and people who are very deserving of these honors.”

The first award was for asphalt recycling during the reconstruction of WIPP’s South Access Road. The WIPP management and operating contractor Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC’s heritage company, Washington TRU Solutions LLC, chose to recycle the existing pavement for resurfacing of the road. The result was the reuse of 78,000 tons of asphalt.

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Another award was for the development of the "Green Catalogue." WIPP team members performed an analysis of WIPP's current green procurement program to create the catalogue. This provided an easy-to-use single source for finding sustainable office supply products from any of the office supply vendors used at a federal facility.

A third award was for WIPP's improvement of the procurement card and purchase requisition programs. They were designed to ensure sustainable purchasing requirements continue to be met while increasing the number of sustainable products used at WIPP in the future.

Also recognized were WIPP's initiatives to enhance metals recycling, which increased from 28 metric tons in fiscal year (FY) 2010 to 103 metric tons in FY 2012.

The team of current and former CBFO, URS, WIPP and sub-contractors' employees honored included Bernie Rodriguez (posthumously), Danny Contreras (posthumously), Mel Balderrama, Bill Barnhart, Corey Burnett, Frank Bush, Hank Carey, Dona Cassingham, Ronnie Crockett, Shari Cullum, Kelli Egan, Dan Ferguson, Marty Gonzales, Debra Hicks, Lynn Johnson, Stewart Jones, Susan McCauslin, Judy McLemore, Helen Moore, Kendra Navarrete, Randy Pettigrew, Lonnie Riley, Jaren Singleton and Gene Stoudt. Also recognized was Owen Lofton from the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management Carlsbad Field Office.

WIPP is a DOE facility designed to safely isolate defense-related transuranic waste from people and the environment. Waste temporarily stored at sites around the country is shipped to WIPP and permanently disposed in rooms mined out of an ancient salt formation 2,150 feet below the surface. WIPP, which began waste disposal operations in 1999, is located 26 miles outside of Carlsbad, N.M.

PHOTO CAPTION: Department of Energy Carlsbad Field Office Site Operations Director Casey Gadbury (right) presents Farok Sharif, President and Project Manager for Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC, the management and operating contractor at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, with a 2012 DOE Sustainability Award during a recognition event at WIPP. More than 20 CBFO and contractor employees were recognized with sustainability awards in four categories.